



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ motamembers.org

Committee:	House Health and Government Operations Committee
Bill Number:	House Bill 780
Title:	Maryland Health Benefit Exchange -- State- Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program
Hearing Date:	February 18, 2021
Position:	Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) is in support of *HB 780- Maryland Health Benefit Exchange -- State-Based Young Adult Health Insurance Subsidies Pilot Program*. This bill would establish a subsidy program, focusing on young adults (18-34), the largest cohort of uninsured individuals, to encourage this population to enroll in insurance and improve the overall uninsured rate in Maryland.

MOTA supports initiatives that improve access to habilitative for children and young adults. . The legislation supports young adults as they age out of the school system and lose access to services provided through individualized education plans (IEPs). They are more likely to be able to continue with needed habilitative services with insurance coverage; and habilitative services may be critical to allow them to life as independently as possible. .

The Individual Subsidy Workgroup published a report in 2020 stating that costs were the greatest barrier for young adults in obtaining health care. Health insurance subsidies for young adults will encourage those aged between 18 and 34 to receive regular health check-ups and take preventative measures to avoid more expensive and serious health conditions later in life.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we urge a favorable vote. If we can provide any further information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443..